

Department of Correction Donates School Supplies to Foster Children Project Backpack Helps Prepare The Villages' Children for the School Year

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- J. David Donahue, Commissioner



Commissioner Donahue presents \$6440.31 to The Villages [Thank You Letter to Commissioner Donahue from The Villages](#)

INDIANAPOLIS - As summer is coming to a close and children are beginning a new school year, all 32 of Indiana's correctional facilities have hosted fund-raisers, collected school supplies and purchased new backpacks to support the children and families served by The Villages, Indiana's largest therapeutic foster care provider.

"The Department of Correction strives to give back to the communities in which we live and operate," said J. David Donahue, Commissioner of the Indiana Department of Correction. "These children are our future and we need to give them all the necessary tools to succeed. I hope to continue this partnership with The Villages for years to come."

Department of Correction staff members and inmates participated in Project Backpack this summer, donating more than \$6,400, as well as school supplies and backpacks, which will equip all school-age foster children in The Villages' care -- more than 500 children and young adults.

"The Villages provides vulnerable children with a caring adult and a loving family setting. It is also important for us to provide them the opportunity to have a positive educational experience," said Sharon Pierce, President & CEO of The Villages. "Project Backpack helps assure we can do just that. We are deeply indebted to our partners at the Department of Correction for making this possible."

DOC staff members came up with creative ways to raise money for the project, including bake sales, car washes, basket auctions and selling mums. Some inmates at the correctional facilities wanted to participate as well and voluntarily donated their personal money to the cause. The funds raised through the efforts of the DOC were used to buy school supplies and backpacks for local foster children of The Villages.

- [The Village Thank You Note](#)

About The Villages

The Villages of Indiana champions every child's right to a safe, permanent and nurturing home and serves more than 1,100 children and their families daily. This mission-driven, nonprofit agency is committed to strengthening all families and embracing the dignity and diversity of each child, youth and family. As Indiana's largest therapeutic foster care provider, The Villages offers a statewide continuum of care that addresses the needs of abused, neglected, and abandoned children and is a leader in providing child abuse prevention services. For more information, visit www.villageskids.org or call 1-800-874-6880.

About the Department of Correction

The Department employs over 8,000 employees and houses 23,000 adult offenders and more than 1,000 juveniles, in 32 facilities, ranging from minimum to maximum custody, prison camps, juvenile facilities and work release centers. The Department's home page on the Internet can be found at: <http://>

[www.in.gov/indcorrection.](http://www.in.gov/indcorrection)